

**BEFORE THE NEBRASKA TAX EQUALIZATION  
AND REVIEW COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
EQUALIZATION OF VALUE )  
OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN )  
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, NEBRASKA, )  
FOR TAX YEAR 2007 )

**COUNTY NUMBER 79  
FINDINGS AND ORDERS  
(NO ADJUSTMENT AFTER  
SHOW CAUSE HEARING)**

**APPEARANCES FOR THE COUNTY:**

Amy Ramos  
Scotts Bluff County Assessor  
1825 10th Street  
Gering, EN 69341

**SUMMARY**

The Tax Equalization and Review Commission, as part of its equalization proceedings held pursuant to Neb. Const. Art. IV, §28, and Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5022 *et. seq.*, (Reissue 2003, Cum Supp 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167, after a hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5026 (Cum. Supp. 2006) and 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167, §10 finds that the levels of value for real property in Scotts Bluff County for tax year 2007, satisfy the requirements of Neb. Const. Art. VIII, §1, and Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023 (2) (Cum. Supp. 2006). The Commission therefore does not enter an order adjusting the value of real property within Scotts Bluff County.

**I.  
REPORT AND OPINION  
OF THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR**

Scotts Bluff County (“County”), as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-1514 (Cum. Supp. 2006), timely filed its Abstract of Assessment for 2007. The Property Tax Administrator (“Administrator”), based on that abstract and other information available to the Administrator, has filed certain statistical and narrative reports with the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (“Commission”) and further has certified the Administrator's opinion regarding the

level of value and the quality of assessment of real property in Scotts Bluff County for tax year 2007. Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5027 (Cum. Supp. 2006).

## **II. REVIEW OF ASSESSMENT PRACTICES**

The level of value for any class or subclass of real property is indicated by its median assessment-sales ratio unless that ratio is deemed unreliable, the sample from which the ratio is drawn is not representative of the class or subclass, or the level of value has been determined based on other generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.

The uniformity and proportionality of assessments (the “quality” of assessments), under professionally accepted mass appraisal methods, are measured through the use of the Coefficient of Dispersion (“COD”) and the Price Related Differential (“PRD”).

## **III. APPLICABLE LAW**

1. The Commission is required to meet annually to equalize the assessed value, special value or recapture value of all real property as submitted by the county assessors on the abstracts of assessment and equalize the values of real property which is valued by the state. Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5022 (Cum. Supp. 2006).
2. The Commission is required to raise or lower the valuation of a class or subclass of real property as necessary to achieve equalization. Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5027 (Cum. Supp. 2006).
3. To achieve equalization the Commission is required to increase or decrease the value of a class or subclass of real property in any county or taxing authority or of real property

valued by the state so that all classes or subclasses of real property in all counties fall within an acceptable range. Neb Rev. Stat. §77-5023(1) (Cum. Supp. 2006).

4. An acceptable range is the percentage of variation from a standard for valuation as measured by an established indicator of central tendency of assessment.  
Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023(2) (Cum. Supp. 2006).
5. The median has been adopted by Commission as the preferred established indicator of central tendency. 442, Neb. Admin. Code, ch 9, §002.07 (01/07).
6. The acceptable ratio range for the median of the “Assessment-Sales Ratio” is from 69% to 75% of actual or fair market value for the class and subclasses of agricultural land and horticultural land not receiving special valuation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-1344; 69% to 75% of special valuation and 69% to 75% of recapture valuation for the class and subclasses of agricultural land and horticultural land receiving special valuation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-1344; and 92% to 100% of actual or fair market value for all other classes and subclasses of real property. Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023(2) (Cum. Supp. 2006). Whether or not the level of value determined by the Commission falls within the acceptable range may be determined to a reasonable degree of certainty relying upon generally accepted mass appraisal techniques. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5023(5) (Cum. Supp. 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, LB 167, §9.
7. The appropriate COD range for the residential class and subclasses of real property is between 0 and 15 and the appropriate COD range for all other classes and subclasses of real property is between 0 and 20. 442 Neb. Admin. Code, ch 9, §005.04B (01/07).

8. The appropriate PRD range for all classes and subclasses of real property is between .98 and 1.03. 442 Neb. Admin. Code, ch 9, §005.04C (01/07).

#### **IV. EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

The Commission may consider and utilize the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Nebraska, the laws of the United States, the laws of Nebraska, the Code of Federal Regulations, the Nebraska Administrative Code, any decision of the several courts of the United States or the State of Nebraska, and the legislative history of any law, rule, or regulation, without making the document a part of the record. The Commission may without inclusion in the record consider and utilize published treatises, periodicals, and reference works pertaining to the valuation or assessment of real or personal property or the meaning of words and phrases if the document is identified in the Commission's rules and regulations.

Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5016(3) (Cum. Supp. 2006). The Commission pursuant to statute has identified various published treatises, periodicals and reference works for its consideration and utilization. 442 Neb. Admin. Code, ch 5, §29 (01/07). The Commission heard testimony and received exhibits. No other information or evidence, except that permitted by law, may be considered. Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5016(3) (Cum. Supp. 2006). The Commission may evaluate the evidence presented utilizing its experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge. Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5016(5) (Cum. Supp. 2006).

#### **V. FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Commission finds and determines the following concerning classes and subclasses of real property in Scotts Bluff County:

## **PROCEDURAL**

1. A statistical and narrative report informing the Commission of the level of value and the quality of assessments of the classes and subclasses of real property for Scotts Bluff County and certifying the opinion of the Property Tax Administrator regarding the level of value and the quality of assessment of real property in Scotts Bluff County, for the tax year 2007 was timely received by the Commission. (E79).
2. The level of value for any class or subclass real property is indicated by its median assessment-sales ratio unless the ratio is deemed unreliable, the sample from which it is drawn is not representative of the class or subclass, or the level of value has been determined based on other generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.
3. The Commission's Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing dated April 20, 2007 proposing an adjustment to the level of value of real property in Scotts Bluff County was mailed to the County Clerk, County Assessor, and Chairperson of the County Board for Scotts Bluff County on April 20, 2007.
4. A hearing on the Commission's order proposing an adjustment was held May 2, 2007.

## **RESIDENTIAL CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY AND ITS SUBCLASSES**

### **THE CLASS**

5. The level of value indicated by the median for the residential class of real property is 94% of actual or fair market value, the COD is 18.75, and the PRD is 105.94, as shown by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator. (E79:31).

6. The statistical studies of the level of value and the quality of assessments are reliable and representative of the level of value and the quality of assessments for the residential class of real property.
7. The level of value for the residential class of real property as indicated by the median is within the acceptable range set by state law as determined to a reasonable degree of certainty relying upon generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.
8. The quality of assessment practices for the residential class of real property is not appropriate as shown by the COD.
9. The quality of assessment practices for the residential class of real property is not appropriate as shown by the PRD.
10. A measure of the quality of assessment practices for the residential class of real property cannot be improved by a percentage adjustment to the level of value for the class of residential real property as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023 (Cum. Supp. 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167, §9. An adjustment by a percentage to the level of value of a subclass of the residential class of real property might improve a measure of the quality of assessment practices but an adjustment for that purpose is not warranted.
11. The level of value for each subclass of the class of residential real property is either within the acceptable range, the number of sales for a subclass are insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study of the subclass, or an adjustment by a percentage of value is not appropriate based on the record before the Commission.
12. No increase or decrease by a percentage of the value for the residential class of real property, or a subclass thereof, is necessary.

**COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY  
AND ITS SUBCLASSES**

**THE CLASS**

13. The level of value indicated by the median for the commercial and industrial class of real property is 97% of actual or fair market value, the COD is 33.79, and the PRD is 110.67, as shown by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator. (E79:36).
14. The statistical studies of the level of value and the quality of assessments are reliable and representative of the level of value and the quality of assessments for the commercial and industrial class of real property.
15. The level of value for the commercial and industrial class of real property as indicated by the median, is within the acceptable range set by state law as determined to a reasonable degree of certainty relying upon generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.
16. The quality of assessment practices for the commercial and industrial class of real property is not appropriate as shown by the COD.
17. The quality of assessment practices for the commercial and industrial class of real property is not appropriate as shown by the PRD.
18. A measure of the quality of assessment practices for the class of commercial and industrial real property cannot be improved by a percentage adjustment to the level of value for the class of commercial and industrial real property as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023 (Cum. Supp. 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167. An adjustment by a percentage to the level of value of a subclass of the commercial and industrial class of

real property might improve a measure of the quality of assessment practices but an adjustment for that purpose is not warranted.

19. The level of value for each subclass of the commercial and industrial class of real property is either within the acceptable range, the number of sales for a subclass are insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study of the subclass, or an adjustment by a percentage of value is not appropriate based on the record before the Commission.
20. No increase or decrease by a percentage for the value of the commercial and industrial class of real property, or a subclass thereof, is necessary.

**AGRICULTURAL LAND AND HORTICULTURAL LAND  
CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY  
NOT SUBJECT TO SPECIAL VALUATION**

**THE CLASS**

21. The level of value indicated by the median for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation is 75% of actual or fair market value, the COD is 29.06, and the PRD is 110.90, as shown by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator. (E79:77).
22. The statistical studies of the level of value and the quality of assessments are reliable and representative of the level of value and the quality of assessments for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation.
23. The level of value for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation as indicated by the median, is within the acceptable range set by state law as determined to a reasonable degree of certainty relying upon generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.

24. The quality of assessment practices for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation is not appropriate as shown by the COD.
25. The quality of assessment practices for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation is not appropriate as shown by the PRD.
26. A measure of the quality of assessment practices for the class of agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation cannot be improved by a percentage adjustment to the level of value for the class of agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023 (Cum. Supp. 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167, §9. An adjustment by a percentage to the level of value of a subclass of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation might improve a measure of the quality of assessment practices but an adjustment for that purpose is not warranted.
27. The level of value for each subclass of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation is either within the acceptable range, the number of sales for a subclass are insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study of the subclass, or an adjustment by a percentage of value is not appropriate based on the record before the Commission.
28. No increase or decrease by a percentage for the value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation, or a subclass thereof, is necessary

**RECAPTURE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND HORTICULTURAL LAND  
CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SPECIAL VALUATION**

**THE CLASS**

29. The quality of assessment practices for recapture value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation is not appropriate as shown by the COD.
30. The quality of assessment practices for recapture value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation is not appropriate as shown by the PRD.
31. The statistical studies do not provide a reliable indicator of the level of value due to the poor quality of assessments as indicated by the COD of 61 for the class.
32. The Commission after a hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5026 (Cum. Supp. 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167, §10, determines that no adjustment should be made.

**SPECIAL VALUE FOR THE REAL PROPERTY CLASS OF  
AGRICULTURAL LAND AND HORTICULTURAL LAND  
SUBJECT TO SPECIAL VALUATION AND ITS SUBCLASSES**

**THE CLASS**

33. The level of value indicated by the median for special value for the real property class of agricultural land and horticultural land subject to special valuation is 75% of special value, the COD is 29.06, and the PRD is 110.90, as shown by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator. (E79:83).

34. The statistical studies of the level of value and the quality of assessment for special value are reliable and representative of the level of value and the quality of assessment for special value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation.
35. The level of value for special value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation as indicated by the median is within the acceptable range set by state law as determined to a reasonable degree of certainty relying upon generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.
36. The quality of assessment practices for special value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation is not appropriate as shown by the COD.
37. The quality of assessment practices for special value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation is not appropriate as shown by the PRD.
38. A measure of the quality of assessment practices for special value of the class of agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation cannot be improved by a percentage adjustment to the level of special value for the class of agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5023 (Cum. Supp. 2006); 2007 Neb. Laws, L.B. 167, §9. An adjustment by a percentage to the level of value of special value for a subclass of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to

special valuation might improve a measure of the quality of assessment practices but an adjustment for that purpose is not warranted.

39. The level of value of special value for each subclass of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation is either within the acceptable range, the number of sales for a subclass are insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study of the subclass, or an adjustment by a percentage of value is not appropriate based on the record before the Commission.
40. No increase or decrease by a percentage of special value for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation, or a subclass thereof, is necessary.

## **VI.**

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over Scotts Bluff County and the subject matter of this order.
2. No adjustment to the value of a class or subclass of real property in Scotts Bluff County is required by law.

## **VII.**

### **ORDER**

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. No adjustment by a percentage by the Commission shall be made to the level of value for the residential class of real property in the County or a subclass thereof for tax year 2007.

2. No adjustment by a percentage by the Commission shall be made to the level of value for the commercial and industrial class of real property in the County or a subclass thereof for tax year 2007.
3. No adjustment by a percentage by the Commission shall be made to the level of value for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not subject to special valuation in the County or a subclass thereof for tax year 2007.
4. No adjustment by a percentage by the Commission shall be made to the level of value for recapture value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation in the County a subclass thereof for tax year 2007.
5. No adjustment by a percentage by the Commission shall be made to the level of value for special value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property subject to special valuation in the County a subclass thereof for tax year 2007.
6. These Findings and Orders shall be served on the Property Tax Administrator of the State of Nebraska via personal delivery, the Scotts Bluff County Assessor via Certified United States Mail, return receipt requested, the Scotts Bluff County Clerk, the Chairperson of the Scotts Bluff County Board and the Scotts Bluff County Attorney via First Class United States Mail sufficient postage paid, on or before May 15, 2007, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5028 (Cum. Supp. 2006).
7. This order is effective the date it is signed and sealed.

**SIGNED AND SEALED** May 7, 2007.

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*Ruth A. Sorensen*, Commissioner

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*Susan S. Lore*, Commissioner

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*William C. Warnes*, Commissioner

*Seal*

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*Wm. R. Wickersham*, Commissioner